

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 231045Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5515
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY THERAN
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HON, HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR
SUBJ: AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON PODGORNY'S
VISIT TO KABUL

REF: (A) KABUL 8102, (B) KABUL 8103

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH, WHO IS DE FACTO FOREIGN
MINISTER BECAUSE PRESIDENT DAOUD HOLDS THAT TITLE, BRIEFED ME
DECEMBER 22 ON THE TALKS PODGORNY AND SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER KUZNETSOV HAD WITH THE AFGHAN LEADERSHIP ON DECEMBER
9 AND 10 IN KABUL.

2. ON BILATERAL MATTERS, ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT
EVENT WAS THE EXTENSION OF THE 1931 NEUTRALITY AND MUTUAL
NON-AGGRESSION TREATY, ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THIS
TREATY, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS PROHIBITS INTERFERENCE IN
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THE OTHER COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IS OF GREAT

IMPORTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN. ABDULLAH SAID THAT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS SKACHKOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WHO ACCOMPANIED PODGORNY, WOULD RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN IN THE SPRING FOR FURTHER TALKS.

3. REGARDING IRAN, ABDULLAH SAID THAT PODGORNY REFERRED TO THE GOOD ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION BUT COMMENTED THAT THE CONTINUING IRANIAN MILITARY BULD-UP IS NOT GOOD FOR THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THIS REGION. I ASKED ABDULLAH IF HE THOUGHT PODGORNY WEA REFERRING TO IRAQ. ABDULLAH REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT PODGORNY WAS REFERRING TO THE REGION AS A WHOLE AND THAT PODGORNY HAD SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

4. REGARDING THE SUB-CONTINENT ABDULLAH SAID THAT PODGORNY TOLD THE AFGHANS THAT SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT. PODGORNY DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH AND IS WATCHING IT WITH "VIGILANCE". PODGORNY REFERRED TO WHAT HE TERMED PAKISTANI AND CHINESE INTERFERENCE IN BANGLADESH AND SPOKE OF THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE LACK OF A STABLE GOVERNMENT THERE. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE AFGHANS WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE REGION SHOULD THERE BE A FURTHER DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PAK-AFGHN DISPUTE.

5. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE SOVIETS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO DETENTE AND HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CRITICISM TO OFFER OF THE UNITED STATES, NOT EVEN REGARDING ANGOLA OR PORTUGAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, PODGORNY TOOK A HARD LINE TOWARDS CHINA.

6. I ASKED ABDULLAH WHAT HE GLEANED ON THE SOVIET DOMETIC SITUATION. HE SAID THAT THE PODGORNY VISIT TO KABUL HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN A HURRY AND FOR ONLY A CONFIDENTIAL

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BRIEF PERIOD BECAUSE THE SOVIETS SAID THAT PODGORNY IS EXTREMELY BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT PODGORNY SAID NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT MAJOR LEADERSHIP CHANGES WOULD ENSUE FROM THE PARTY CONGRESS, BUT ABDULLAH HIMSELF SPECULATED THAT SUCH CHANGES APPEAR TO BE IN THE OFFING. ABDULLAH ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS MENTIONED WITH SOME CONCERN THEIR LARGE GRAIN DEFICIT.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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